TAFSEER SURAH INSAAN (cont'd)
THE VIRTUES OF DHIKR AND THE MERITS OF SALAH (Part 1 & 2)

BY SHAIKH ABDULLAH FAISAL

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Notes Typed and Edited By Muminah_29

AYAH 25

And remember the Name of your Lord every morning and afternoon [i.e. offering of the Morning (Fajr), Zuhr, and 'Asr prayers]. (Al-Insan 76:25)

In the above-mentioned Ayah Allah is commanding you to do Dhikr.
Dhikr means to remember Allah

THE VIRTUES OF DHIKR

1) DHIKR IS DONE BY THE SINCERE BELIEVERS

**Abu Huraira (RA) reported that Allah's Messenger (SAW) said, “Theworld, with all that it contains, is accursed except for Dhikr (the remembrance of Allah) that
which pleases Allah; and the religious scholars and seekers of knowledge.'' [Sunan
Tirmidhi (4/561) 2322 and Sunan Ibn Majah (5/231) 4112, (Abu Eesa al-Tirmidhi said: this hadeeth is hasan ghareeb)]**

Everything in the dunya is cursed except Dhikr, a scholar of Islam and the student of a scholar.
A characteristic of a Muslim is to remember Allah while a munafiq forgets about Allah.
Allah spoke about the righteous servants in the following Ayah:

Verily! In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and in the alternation of night and day, there are indeed signs for men of understanding. (Aali Imran 3:190)

Those who remember Allah (always, and in prayers) standing, sitting, and lying down on their sides, and think deeply about the creation of the heavens and the earth, (saying) : "Our Lord! You have not created (all) this without purpose, glory to You! (Exalted be You above all that they associate with You as partners). Give us salvation from the torment of the Fire. (Aali Imran 3:191)

So to remember Allah is one of the characteristics of a sincere believer but the hypocrites forget about Allah so Allah forgets about them.
Allah tells us this in Surah 9:67:

The hypocrites, men and women, are from one another, they enjoin (on the people) Al-Munkar (i.e. disbelief and polytheism of all kinds and all that Islam has forbidden), and forbid (people) from Al-Ma'ruf (i.e. Islamic Monotheism and

**all that Islam orders one to do), and they close their hands [from giving (spending in Allah's Cause)
alms, etc.]. They have forgotten Allah, so He has forgotten them. Verily, the hypocrites are the Fasiqun (rebellious, disobedient to Allah). (At-Tawbah 9:67)**

But Allah does not forget so the tafseer for the above-mentioned Ayah is they ignore Allah so Allah ignores them.
They have forgotten about Allah so they are very evil in character.

2) THE HEART FINDS TRANQUILITY AND CONTENTEMENT WITH THE DHIKR OF ALLAH

People suffer from mental depression and end up in a mad house or live on pills (Prozac) because they don't remember Allah

Those who believe (in the Oneness of Allah - Islamic Monotheism), and whose hearts find rest in the remembrance of Allah, Verily, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest. (Ra'd 13:2)

Some of them suffer from schizophrenia because they forget Allah so they are hunted by the Jinn

Narrated By Abu Huraira (RA): The Prophet (SAW) said, "Riches does not mean, having a great amount of property, but riches is self-contentment." [al-Bukhari 603 and Muslim (2287)]

But the rich man is the one who is content and it's only with the Dhikr of Allah that the heart finds contentment.
Countries with the highest suicide rate are countries where there are lots of pagans and atheists.
People look older than their age because they have no Sakeenah (tranquility)
In the time of the Prophet (s.a.w.) there were no mad houses and no Sahabahs ever died of heart attacks.

Anas bin Malik (RA) narrated that the Prophet (SAW) said: "Among the signs that the Last Hour is near, is that the crescent would appear larger than its actual size and people would say: 'It appears as if it is only two days old.' and the masajid will be taken as streets, and sudden death will spread." [al-Mu'jam al-Awsat al-Tabarani (9/147) No. 9376]

In the above-mentioned Hadith the Prophet (s.a.w.) said one of the signs of the last day is that people will die suddenly.
The scholars say the sudden death, which is mentioned in the Hadith means heart attack.

"But whosoever turns away from My Reminder (i.e. neither believes in this Qur'an nor acts on its orders, etc.) verily, for him is a life of hardship, and We shall raise him up blind on the Day of Resurrection." (Ta-Ha 20:124)

He will say:"O my Lord! Why have you raised me up blind, while I had sight (before)." (Ta-Ha 20:125)

(Allah) will say: "Like this, Our Ayat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) came unto you, but you disregarded them (i.e. you left them, did not think deeply in them, and you turned away from them), and so this Day, you will be neglected (in the Hell-fire, away from Allah's Mercy)." (Ta-Ha 20:126)

3) ALLAH APPOINTS A SHAITAN TO BE AN INTIMATE COMPANION FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT DO DHIKR

And whosoever turns away (blinds himself) from the remembrance of the Most Beneficent (Allah) (i.e. this Qur'an and worship of Allah), We appoint for him Shaitan (Satan devil) to be a Qarin (an intimate companion) to him. (Az-Zukhruf 43:36)

This is a promise from Allah.
These are people who hear voices and they are found in Europe and America a lot and they are in the mad houses.
A lot of women get raped there because the kaafir psychologists believe that the free mixing of the genders will help to cure the mental illness of the patients.
This is what the psychologist's claim and the psychologist's think it's a chemical imbalance in the brain that causes people to hear voices.
It is really a spiritual problem but because psychologists do not understand spiritual problems they tell the family of the patient it is a chemical imbalance in the brain.
But in reality the people are hearing the voice of Iblis.
There is no chemical imbalance in the brain and they give the patients medication and these medications make the patients become suicidal.
They can't fix the problem because the problem is spiritual and the psychologist cannot diagnose it.
These problems are complex and their universities did not teach them about the spiritual problems and aspects of life and a kaafir cannot understand spirituality.
They cannot understand the Ayats of Surah Nas.
They probably don't even believe in the Jinn.

"From the evil of the whisperer (devil who whispers evil in the hearts of men) who withdraws (from his whispering in one's heart after one remembers Allah), (An-Nas 114:4)

"Who whispers in the breasts of mankind, (An-Nas 114:5)

"Of jinns and men." (An-Nas 114:6)

So the cause of schizophrenia is what Allah told us in Quran that He will appoint a Shaitan to be their companion.
Dhikr keeps Iblis at bay.

4) THE ONE WHO REMEMBERS ALLAH IS ALIVE AND THE ONE WHO DOES NOT DO DHIKR IS SPIRITUALLY DEAD

There are two types of blindness and two types of death.
A blind man came to the Prophet (s.a.w.) seeking guidance but the Prophet (s.a.w.) frowned and turned away.
He was Abdullah ibn Umm Makhtum.
He saw the beauty of Islam even though he was blind.
He used his heart to see the beauty of Islam so we don't need our eyes to see the beauty of Islam.

The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said to his men: "Which man of you can lead us to where the people (i.e. the idolaters) are, along a short track that does not pass by them?" Abu Khaithama said: "O Messenger of Allah (SAW), I am the man you need." Then he chose a short track that led to Uhud passing by Harrah Bani Harithah and their farms, leaving the idolaters' army westwards. On their way they passed by Ha'it (i.e. the field) of Marba' bin Qaizi, who was a blind hypocrite. When Marba' felt and realized that they were the Prophetic army, he started throwing earth at their faces, so they rushed to kill him, but

the Prophet (SAW) said: "Do not kill him. He is blind in heart and eyes."[Seerah Ibn Hisham (2/65)]

One day the Prophet (s.a.w.) was passing by some kuffaar one of them was a blind man who on realizing it was the Prophet (s.a.w.) passing started throwing earth at the Prophet (s.a.w.) and his companions, the companions of the Prophet wanted to kill this blind man for that but the Rasul said leave him alone because this man is blind in his heart and in his eyes
The man who is blind in his heart and eyes is the real blind man.

There are 2 types of dead people one who is physically dead and one who is spiritually dead.
The one who is a Muslim and remembers Allah is spiritually alive.
But the one who forgets Allah is spiritually dead and the worse type of death is to be spiritually dead, because there's no hope for you in the hereafter and Allah made it haraam on the Muslims to beg Allah for the forgiveness of their relatives who forgot about Allah and died as disbelievers.

It is not (proper) for the Prophet and those who believe to ask Allah's Forgiveness for the Mushrikun (polytheists, idolaters, pagans, disbelievers in the Oneness of Allah) even though they be of kin, after it has become clear to them that they are the dwellers of the Fire (because they died in a state of disbelief). (At-Tawbah 9:113)

If it were permissible the Prophet (s.a.w.) would have prayed for his uncle Abu Talib who died a kaafir.

Narrated By Al-Abbas bin 'Abdul Muttalib: That he said to the Prophet "You have not been of any avail to your uncle (Abu Talib) (though) by Allah, he used to protect you and used to become angry on your behalf." The Prophet said, "He is in a shallow fire, and had It not been for me, he would have been in the bottom of the (Hell) Fire." [Sahih Bukhari, Vol 5, Book 58, Hadith #222]

Al- Abbas asked the Prophet (s.a.w.) if he helped his uncle because his uncle used to protect him. The Prophet (s.a.w.) said yes I asked Allah to give him the lightest punishment in hell and if it were not for me he would have been in the bottom of the fire.

**Ibn 'Abbas reported: The Prophet (may peace be upon him) said:
Among the inhabitants of the Fire Abu Talib would have the least suffering, and he would be wearing two shoes (of Fire) which would boil his brain. [Sahih Muslim, Book 1, Hadith #0413]**

The following Ayah stated that there is no hope for a person who dies outside the fold of Islam and they will dwell in Hellfire forever.

And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers. (Aali Imran 3:85)

If a person dies and didn't hear about Islam, the Prophet (s.a.w.) or the Quran Allah will question him based upon what he knew and depending on his answer Allah will give him Jannah or Jahannam.
A person born mad has nothing to answer for and ignorance is not an excuse on the Day of Judgment.
The child who died before puberty will be in Jannah with Prophet Ibrahim (a.s)
The Prophet (s.a.w) saw in a dream a garden wherein there is a man surrounded by many children, the man was Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) and children are all children who die before the age of puberty. Commenting on

this, the Companions inquired, “Including the children of polytheists?” and the Prophet (peace be upon him) replied, “Yes, including the children of polytheists.” (Al Bukhari)

Even the kids of the kuffaar will be in Jannah but the Khawaarij doesn’t believe that, they think the kids of the Kuffaar are in the fire.
So all kids who died before puberty will be in Jannah with Prophet Ibrahim (a.s) and Sarah

THE MERITS OF SALAH

1) SALAH IS THE LAGACY OF ALL THE PROPHETS

All the Prophets on their deathbeds told their Ummah don’t forget to safe guard their prayer strictly.
Hence Allah said:

And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him), and perform As-Salat (Iqamat-as-Salat) and give Zakat: and that is the right religion. (Al-Bayyinah 98:5)

"O my son! Aqim-is-Salat (perform As-Salat), enjoin (people) for Al-Ma'ruf (Islamic Monotheism and all that is good), and forbid (people) from Al-Munkar (i.e. disbelief in the Oneness of Allah, polytheism of all kinds and all that is evil and bad), and bear with patience whatever befall you. Verily! These are some of the important commandments ordered by Allah with no exemption. (Luqman 31:17)

http://www.authentictauheed.com/2011/06/86-26-merits-of-salah.html

Prophet Isa's (a.s) first miracle was to speak in the cradle because she (Mary the mother of Isa) took an oath not to speak to anyone so when they accused her of zina she pointed to the baby. Isa's (a.s) first miracle was to defend the honour of his mother.
Prophet Isa (a.s) was only 1 day old when he spoke from the cradle

"He ['Isa (Jesus)] said: Verily! I am a slave of Allah, He has given me the Scripture and made me a Prophet;" (Maryam 19:30)

"And He has made me blessed wheresoever I be, and has enjoined on me Salat (prayer), and Zakat, as long as I live." (Maryam 19:31)

"And dutiful to my mother, and made me not arrogant, unblest. (Maryam 19:32)

"And Salam (peace) be upon me the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I shall be raised alive!" (Maryam 19:33)

Such is 'Isa (Jesus), son of Maryam (Mary). (it is) a statement of truth, about which they doubt (or dispute). (Maryam 19:34)

So Salah was the legacy and tradition of all the Prophets
Salah is not just for this Ummah
The Salah was the same format as before which is why the Prophet (s.a.w.) led all the other Prophets in Salah and was the Imam of all the Prophets at Masjid ul Aqsa on the night of Israa wal Mi’raj.

2) SALAH IS THE FIRST ACTION ALLAH WILL ASK YOU ABOUT ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

On the authority of Abu Hurayrah (RA) from the Prophet (SAW), who said: "Allah (mighty and sublime be He) says: 'The first of his actions for which a servant of Allah will be held accountable on the Day of Resurrection will be his prayers.' If they are in order, then he will have prospered and succeeded; and if they are wanting, then he will have failed and lost. If there is something defective in his obligatory prayers, the Lord (glorified and exalted be He) will say: 'See if My servant has any supererogatory prayers with which may be completed that which was defective in his obligatory prayers.' Then the rest of his actions will be judged in like fashion." [At-Tirmidhi (also by Abu Dawud, an-Nasa'i, Ibn Majah and Ahmad).]

If your Salah is good then Allah will ask u about your Sawm and Zakah etc but if you Salah is not in order you will be thrown in the Hellfire and you will not be questioned about anything else.

3) SALAH MAKES YOU A REAL MUSLIM IT IS YOUR IDENTITY

The munafiq likes to say I'm a non-practising Muslim but there's nothing like that.
The difference between a Muslim and a kaafir is the Salah.

Jabir reports that the Prophet (SAW) said, "Between a person and disbelief is discarding prayer." [Related by Muslim (82), at-Tirmidhi (2620), Abu Dawud (467, Ibn Majah (107 , an-Nasa'i (463), Ahmad (15021)]

Buraidah reported that the Prophet (SAW) said, "The pact between us and them is prayer. Whoever abandons it is a disbeliever." [Related by Ahmad (22987), an-Nasa'i (463), at-Tirmidhi (2621) and Ibn Majah (1079)]

Abdullah ibn Shaqiq Uqayli (RA) reported, saying "The companions of Muhummad (SAW) did not regard neglect of any of the deeds as disbelief as they did (neglect) of Salah." [Sunan Tirmidhi (5/14) No. 2622 and Mustadrak al-Haakim (1/4 No. 12 who said it met the conditions of al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Some of us fast 20,30, 40 or even 50 Ramadans but a person who doesn't practise wants to be in the same Paradise like you.
Its like two people working, one stays home and watches tv and the other worker works 9-5 daily and at the end of the month both wants the same pay.
Will u pay them the same?
So too one Muslim doesn't pray or fast or give zakah and the other Muslim prays, fasts and gives zakah and goes to Hajj.
But the one who doesn't do any of this wants the same Paradise just like the Muslim who works hard.
This man is called a free loader he wants paradise for free
But it does not work like that.

Ibn Rushd (d.595 H) said: "With respect to the obligation in the case of the person who relinquishes it intentionally, and when he is ordered to pray refuses to do so, but does not deny its obligation, a group of jurists said that he should be executed, while another group said that he is to be punished and confined. Among those who maintained that he is to be executed, some made his execution obligatory as a result of his disbelief (kufr).

This is the opinion of Ahmad, Ishaq, and Ibn al-Mubarak. Others, who upheld his confinement and punishment till he resumes praying, determined it as a

hadd penalty, which is the opinion of Malik, al-Shafi'i, Abu Hanifa, his disciples, and of the Zahirites." [Bidayat al-Mujtahid (1/9]

There's nothing like a non-practising Muslim, he is delusional
The following Ayah is the evidence to prove that there's nothing like a non-practising Muslim:

But if they repent, perform As-Salat (Iqamat-as-Salat) and give Zakat, then they are your brethren in religion. (In this way) We explain the Ayat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) in detail for a people who know. (At-Tawbah 9:11)

Allah revealed the above-mentioned Ayah because the Sahabahs were worried that the Shahadah of some reverts might be fake.
So Allah laid down 3 conditions for us to accept the Shahadah of a new Muslim.
They are as follows:

- TAUBAH (from their Kufr and Shirk)
-SALAH
-ZAKAH

Therefore there is no such thing as a non-practising Muslim

4) SALAH IS YOUR SOURCE OF HELP

Whenever the Prophet (s.a.w.) encountered a stressful situation he would turn to Salah.

And seek help in patience and As-Salat (the prayer) and truly it is extremely heavy and hard except for Al-Khashi'un [i.e. the true believers in Allah – those who obey Allah with full submission, fear much from His Punishment, and believe in His Promise (Paradise, etc.) and in His Warnings (Hell, etc.)]. (Al-Baqarah 2:45)

5) SALAH KEEPS THE FAMILY TOGETHER

The family that prays together stays together and lots of people who get divorced didn't pray together.

And enjoin As-Salat (the prayer) on your family, and be patient in offering them [i.e. the Salat (prayers)]. We ask not of you a provision (i.e. to give Us something: money, etc.); We provide for you. And the good end (i.e. Paradise) is for the Muttaqun (pious - see V.2:2). (Ta-Ha 20:132)

Allah has commanded you to pray as a family unit in the above-mentioned Ayah.
When you pray together as a married couple Allah puts love in your hearts for each other.
The Muslims are not like the kuffaar we don't hold hands and go out with women and men before marriage.

6) SALAH MAKES ALLAH LOVES YOU AND IT MAKES PEOPLE LOVE AND RESPECT YOU

Even the kuffaar respect you when they see you praying

"O our Lord! I have made some of my offspring to dwell in an uncultivable valley by Your Sacred House (the Ka'bah at Makkah); in order, O our Lord, that

they may perform As-Salat (Iqamat-as-Salat), so fill some hearts among men with love towards them, and (O Allah) provide them with fruits so that they may give thanks. (Ibrahim 14:37)

The above-mentioned ayah is the dua Prophet Ibrahim (a.s) made when he left his family in Makkah.
So when you pray people will respect you, trust you and marry their daughters to you.

7) WITH SALAH YOU WILL GAIN THE INTERCESSION OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (S.A.W.)

If you don't pray you will not get the intercession of the Prophet (s.a.w.)

"What has caused you to enter Hell?" (Al-Muddaththir 74:42)

They will say: "We were not of those who used to offer their Salat (prayers). (Al-Muddaththir 74:43)

"Nor we used to feed Al-Miskin (the poor); (Al-Muddaththir 74:44)

"And we used to talk falsehood (all that which Allah hated) with vain talkers. (Al-Muddaththir 74:45)

"And we used to belie the Day of Recompense. (Al-Muddaththir 74:46)

"Until there came to us (the death) that is certain." (Al-Muddaththir 74:47)

So no intercession of intercessors will be of any use to them. (Al-Muddaththir 74:48)

It is haraam for the Prophet (s.a.w.) to intercede for you on the Day of Judgment if you don't perform your Salah.
Yaqeen means death
Allah began the above-mentioned verses with Salah because the first thing Allah will question you about on the Day of Judgment is Salah.
We cannot escape death even if we are in fortified columns.
It is better to join our prayers than to miss them.
You can wipe over your hijaab and socks, that's Hanbali fiqh and 3 miles is the set limit to be considered a traveler.

What is the distance by which a traveller may shorten his prayers? Is combining them permissible rather than shortening them?

Answer:
Ibn Taymiyyah used to join his prayer when he traveled 3 mile

The distance by which the prayers are shortened; some scholars specified it to be around 83 kilometers. Other scholars specified it to be whatever is customarily considered traveling, even if he (the traveler) did not go beyond 80 kilometers.
And whatever the people consider not to be traveling, then it is not traveling even if it
reached 100 kilometers.

This last (opinion) is the opinion of Shaykh al-Islaam Ibn Taymiyyah (rh) and that is because Allaah did not define a specific distance by which shortening the prayers is allowed nor did the Prophet (SAW) specify an exact distance.

Anas ibn Maalik (RA) said:
"The Prophet (SAW); whenever he went out for 3 miles or Faraasikh (a measurement of length) then he used to shorten the prayer and pray two Rak'aats." [1]

The statement of Shaykh al-Islaam Ibn Taymiyyah is closer to what is correct. There is also no hardship, whenever

Those who say 45 miles is the limit to be considered a traveler there is no Hujjah for that. They are using the aql (intellect).

8) SALAH IS A COVENANT BETWEEN ALLAH, THE RASUL AND YOU

And We shall drive the Mujrimun (polytheists, sinners, criminals, disbelievers in the Oneness of Allah, etc.) to Hell, in a thirsty state (like a thirsty herd driven down to water), (Maryam 19:86)

None shall have the power of intercession, but such a one as has received permission (or promise) from the Most Beneficent (Allah). (Maryam 19:87)

Abu Dharr (RA) narrates that once the Prophet (SAW) came out of his house. It was autumn and the leaves were falling off the trees. He caught a branch of a tree and its leaves began to drop in large number. At this he remarked, "O, Abu Dharr! when a Muslim offers his salah to please Allah, his sins are shed away from him just as these leaves are falling off this tree." [Musnad Ahmad (5/179) No. 21596]

So if you upkeep your Salah no matter what weaknesses you have the Prophet (s.a.w.) will intercede for you on the Day of Judgment.

TAFSIR SURAH INSAAN - THE MERITS OF SALAH (Part 2)

BY SHAIKH ABDULLAH FAISAL

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Notes By AuthenticTauheed6

MERIT # 9: SALAH PREVENTS YOU FROM UNLAWFUL INTERCOURSE AND OTHER TYPES OF SINS

The evidence for this is Surah 29:45.

Recite (O Muhammad SAW) what has been revealed to you of the Book (the Qur'an), and perform As-Salat (Iqamatas Salat). Verily, As-Salat (the prayer) prevents from Al-Fahsha' (i.e. great sins of every kind, unlawful sexual intercourse, etc.) and Al-Munkar (i.e. disbelief, polytheism, and every kind of evil wicked deed, etc.) and the remembering (praising, etc.) of (you by) Allah (in front of the angels) is greater indeed [than your remembering (praising, etc.) Allah in prayers, etc.]. And Allah knows what you do. (Al-'Ankabut 29:45)

MERIT # 10: SALAH PROMOTES COMMUNITY COHESION

- It enhances the brotherhood and sisterhood.
- This is when salah is performed in jamaah.

'Abdullah ibn 'Umar narrated the Messenger of Allah (SAW) said: "Salah in congregation is twenty-seven times better than Salah prayed individually." [al-Bukhari (645) and Muslim (650)]

MERIT # 11: SALAH NURTURES YOU SPIRITUALLY

- The Prophet held onto a tree and he was shaking it.
- The leaves fell off the tree.
- He told the sahaba when they perform their salah, their sins fall like the leaves from that tree.

Abu Dharr (RA) narrates that once the Prophet (SAW) came out of his house. It was autumn and the leaves were falling off the trees. He caught a branch of a tree and its leaves began to drop in large number. At this he remarked, “O, Abu Dharr! when a Muslim offers his salah to please Allah, his sins are shed away from him just as these leaves are falling off this tree.” [Musnad Ahmad (5/179) No. 21596]

Abu Huraira narrated the Messenger of Allah (SAW) said: “The five daily prayers, Friday prayer to the following Friday prayer, and Ramadan to the following Ramadan are expiations for sins as long as one abstains from major sins." [Sahih Muslim (1/209) No. 233 and Musnad Ahmad (2/400) No. 9186]

MERIT # 12 SALAH NURTURES YOU PHYSICALLY

- Salah is an excellent form of exercise.
- Even your neck is exercised in salah.
- This is the least amount of exercise you need to stay healthy.
- Your back should be flat when you go down in rukoo.
- A glass of water should be able to be placed on your back without falling.

MERIT # 13: SALAH GIVES YOU A MARK OF DISTINCTION

The evidence for this is Surah 48:29.

Muhammad (SAW) is the Messenger of Allah, and those who are with him are severe against disbelievers, and merciful among themselves. You see them bowing and falling down prostrate (in prayer), seeking Bounty from Allah and (His) Good Pleasure. The mark of them (i.e. of their Faith) is on their faces (foreheads) from the traces of (their) prostration (during prayers). This is their description in the Taurat (Torah). But their description in the Injeel (Gospel) is like a (sown) seed which sends forth its shoot, then makes it strong, it then becomes thick, and it stands straight on its stem, delighting the sowers that He may enrage the disbelievers with them. Allah has promised those among them who believe (i.e. all those who follow Islamic Monotheism, the religion of Prophet Muhammad SAW till the Day of Resurrection) and do righteous good deeds, forgiveness and a mighty reward (i.e. Paradise). (Al-Fath 48:29)

- This distinction of having a mark on their forehead from their sajda was mentioned in the Torah and Injeel.
- This distinction will only benefit you if you have the right aqeeda.
- It will not benefit you if you are a Berailvi or a Sufi.

- The Khawaarij who Ali massacred all had this mark of distinction.

MERIT # 14: SALAH KEEPS YOU IN TOUCH WITH FIQH UL WAQI IF IT IS ESTABLISHED IN JAMAAH

- By you praying in jamaah with your brothers you understand fiqh ul waqi because the imam addresses you and speaks on the problems of the community after the salah.
- The Arabic word fiqh ul waqi means current events in general but in this context it means the current events of the Muslim community.

MERIT # 15: SALAH TEACHES YOU PUNCTUALITY

The evidence for this is Surah 4:103.

When you have finished As-Salat (the prayer - congregational), remember Allah standing, sitting down, and lying down on your sides, but when you are free from danger, perform As-Salat (Iqamatas Salat). Verily, the prayer is enjoined on the believers at fixed hours. (An-Nisa 4:103)

The Prophet was asked what the best deed is. He replied to establish salah at its fixed time.

Narrated By Abdullah bin Masud: I asked Allah's Apostle, "O Allah's Apostle! What is the best deed?" He replied, "To offer the prayers at their early stated fixed times." I asked, "What is next in goodness?" He replied, "To be good and dutiful to your parents." I further asked, what is next in goodness?" He replied, "To participate in Jihad in Allah's Cause." I did not ask Allah's Apostle anymore and if I had asked him more, he would have told me more. [al-Bukhari (527) and Muslim (85)]

MERIT # 16: SALAH IS THE SECOND PILLAR OF ISLAM

On the authority of Abu Abdul Rahmaan Abdullah (RA), the son of Umar ibn al-Kattaab (RA) who said: I heard the Messenger of Allah (SAW) say: "Islam is built upon five [pillars]: testifying that there is none worthy of worship except Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, establishing the prayers, giving zakat, making pilgrimage to the House and fasting the month of Ramadan." (Recorded in Bukhari and Muslim)

MERIT # 17: SALAH IS THE GREETING FOR THE MASJID

- You pray 2 rakaah before you sit down upon entering the masjid.
- This greeting of the masjid is called tahiyatul masjid.

Abu Qatadah (RA) reported: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "When anyone of you enters the mosque, he should perform two Rak'ah (of voluntary prayer) before sitting." [al-Bukhari (444) and Muslim (714)]

It was narrated that Jaabir ibn 'Abd-Allaah said: A man came whilst the Prophet (SAW) was addressing the people on Friday, and he [the Prophet (SAW)] said: "Have you prayed, O So and so?" He said, "No." He said: "Stand up and pray two rak'ahs." [al-Bukhaari (888) and Muslim (875)]

- You are allowed to pray tahiyatul masjid even after salatul asr.
- This is how important it is.

MERIT # 18: SALAH GIVES YOU TRANQUILITY

The evidence for this is Surah 23:1-2.

Successful indeed are the believers.Those who offer their Salat (prayers) with all solemnity and full submissiveness. (Al-Mu'minun 23:1-2)

MERIT # 19: SALAH IS OUR MEANS BY WHICH WE MAKE TAWBAH

On the authority of Abu Bakr al-Siddeeq (RA) said: I heard the Messenger of Allah (SAW) say: "There is no one who commits a sin then purifies himself well and stands and prays two rak'ahs, then asks Allah for forgiveness, but Allah will forgive him. Then he recited this verse: 'And those who, when they have committed Fahishah (illegal sexual intercourse) or wronged themselves with evil, remember Allah and ask forgiveness for their sins; (and none can forgive sins but Allah) and do not persist in what (wrong) they have done, while they know' [Aal 'Imraan 3:135]." [Sunan Abu Dawud (2/86) No. 1521]

- When you do a sin you pray salatul tawbah.
- Salah is our means by which we make tawbah.

Abu Huraira said, "I heard the Messenger of Allah (SAW) say, 'What do you think would happen if there was a river by someone's door in which he washed five times every day? Do you think that any dirt would remain on him?' They said, 'Not a scrap of dirt would remain on him.' He said, 'That is a metaphor of the five prayers by which Allah wipes out wrong actions.'" [al-Bukhari (528) and Muslim (667)]

MERIT # 20: SALAH IS OUR MEANS BY WHICH WE THANK ALLAH

- The companions of the Prophet prayed after conquering a land to thank Allah.
- The Maliki madhab believe there is a thing called salatul shukr.
- The other three imams believe in making sajdat al shukr.
- Abu Bakr performed sajdat al shukr when Musailamah was killed.
- The Prophet used to perform sajdat al shukr when he heard the sahabas won a battle.

MERIT # 21: SALAH IS OUR MEANS BY WHICH WE SEEK ALLAH'S JUDGEMENT ON A CRUCIAL MATTER (SALATUL ISTIKHARA)

- The sahabas used to do salatul istikhara even before buying a pair of shoes.
- You need to perform salatul istikhara before getting married and before making hijra because these are big decisions.
- Before you invest in a business, you need to do salatul istikhara.
- You have to do istikhara before you buy a car even if it's a new car.
- Some cars come with a factory fault.

MERIT # 22: SALAH IS OUR MEANS BY WHICH WE PREVENT OUR HOMES FROM BECOMING A GRAVEYARD

The Prophet used to perform 2 sunnah after Maghrib at home.

Ibn 'Umar reported that the Prophet (SAW) said, "Do some of your prayers in your houses and do not make them into graves." [al-Bukhari (432) and Muslim (777)]

Zayd ibn Thabit reported that the Prophet (SAW), said, "O people, pray in your houses. The best prayer is a man's prayer in his house - except for the obligatory prayer." [Al-Bukhari (698) and Muslim (781)]
Ibn 'Umar (RA) reported: I performed along with the Messenger of Allah (SAW) two Rak'ah of optional prayers before Zuhr and two after the Zuhr (noon prayer), and two after the Friday prayer, and two after the Maghrib (evening) prayer, and two after the 'Isha' (night) prayer." [Al-Bukhari (2/57) and Muslim (729); the wording is from Bukhari]

Narrated 'Abdullah bin 'Umar: The Messenger of Allah (SAW) used to pray two rak'at before the Zuhr prayer and two rak'at after it. He also used to pray two rak'at after the Maghrib prayer in his house, and two rak'at after the 'Isha' prayer. He never prayed after Jumua prayer till he departed (from the Masjid), and then he would pray two rak'at at home. [Sahih Bukhari (2/13) No. 937]

MERTIT # 23: SALAH IS OUR MEANS BY WHICH WE SEEK RAIN WHEN THERE IS A DROUGHT (SALATUL ISTISQAA - THE PRAYER FOR RAIN)

Narrated By Anas: Whenever drought threatened them, 'Umar bin Al-Khattab, used to ask Al-Abbas bin 'Abdul Muttalib to invoke Allah for rain. He used to say, "O Allah! We used to ask our Prophet to invoke You for rain, and You would bless us with rain, and now we ask his uncle to invoke You for rain. O Allah ! Bless us with rain." And so it would rain. [Sahih Bukhari, Vol 2, Book 17, Hadith #123]

We use the above-mentioned hadith to checkmate the Barelvis who pray to the grave of the Prophet.

MERIT # 24: SALAH IS THE GREATEST FORM OF DHIKR
"Verily! I am Allah! La ilaha illa Ana (none has the right to be worshipped but I), so worship Me, and perform As Salat (Iqamat-as-Salat) for My Remembrance. (Ta-Ha 20:14)

MERIT # 25: SALAH IS AN INVESTMENT

Verily, those who recite the Book of Allah (this Qur'an), and perform AsSalat (IqamatasSalat), and spend (in charity) out of what We have provided for them, secretly and openly, hope for a (sure) trade gain that will never perish. (Fatir 35:29)

MERIT # 26: SALAH IS A GIFT

- When the Prophet went to al isra wal miraaj, he brought back 3 gifts for the ummah.
- One of them was salah.
- The second was an ayah, Surah 2:286.
- The third gift was the multiplication of pious deeds.
- If you should do a good deed it is written down as 10 good deeds or 700 good deeds.
- But if you should do a bad deed, it is written down as one bad deed.

On the authority of Ibn Abbas (RA), from the Messenger of Allah (SAW), from what he has related from his Lord: Verily Allah ta'ala has written down the good deeds and the evil deeds, and then explained it [by saying]: "Whosoever intended to perform a good deed, but did not do it, then Allah writes it down with Himself as a complete good deed. And if he intended to perform it and then did perform it, then Allah writes it down with Himself as from ten good

deeds up to seven hundred times, up to many times multiplied. And if he intended to perform an evil deed, but did not do it, then Allah writes it down with Himself as a complete good deed. And if he intended it [i.e., the evil deed] and then performed it, then Allah writes it down as one evil deed." [related by al-Bukhari (6491) and Muslim (131)]

MERIT # 27: SALAH IS THE CLOSEST A PERSON CAN GET TO HIS LORD

The Prophet said the closest a person can get to his Lord is when he is in sajda.

“The closest a person can be to his Lord is when he is prostrating, so say a great deal of du’aa’ (at that time).” Narrated by Muslim, 482.
- That position with your face on the ground is the ultimate humility.
- Allah loves sajda more than rukoo.

- Imam Shafi said when making sajda, you go down with your hands first because you're not supposed to pray like an animal.
- Abu Hanifa said to go down to sajda with the knees first.
- The Hanbalis agree with Abu Hanifa.
- Ibn Taymiyya said it is not an issue whether you go down with knees first or hands first.

Ibn Taymiyyah said: “Praying in both ways is permissible, according to the consensus of the scholars. If a person wants to go down knees first or hands first, his prayer is valid in either case, according to the consensus of the scholars, but they disputed as to which is preferable.” [Majmua al-Fatawa (22/449)]

- When you recite the tashahud you should say assalam alan nabi not assalam alayka.
- When you say assalam alayka you are playing right into the hands of the Berailvis.
- They use assalamu alayka as hujjah to pray to the Prophet.

Narrated Ibn Mas'ud Allah's Apostle taught me the Tashah-hud as he taught me a Sura from the Quran, while my hand was between his hands. (Tashah-hud was) all the best compliments and the prayers and the good things are for Allah. Peace and Allah's Mercy and Blessings be on you, O Prophet! Peace be on us and on the pious slaves of Allah, I testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah, and I also testify that Muhammad is Allah's slave and His Apostle. (We used to recite this in the prayer) during the lifetime of the Prophet, but when he had died, we used to say, "Peace be on the Prophet." Bukhari -Volume 8, Book 74, Number 281

- The saudi salafis wag their fingers in tashahud.
- The hadith about wagging the finger is shadh (Weird).
- Wagging the finger in tashahud is the hallmark of a saudi salafi.

Imam Nawawi mentions in the Majmu‘ (3.454) from Abu Dawud and others with a sound chain of narrators on the authority Abdullah Ibn Az-Zubayr, that he described the prayer of the Prophet (SAW) by saying, “He would point with his finger while supplicating without moving it.” As for what is present in the narration that mentions, that he (SAW) “used to move it”, the expression, “move it is an unreliable anomalous (Ar. shadhdh) narration because the narrator who relates [this Hadith] on the authority of the Companion Wael Ibn Hujr (RA) contradicts everyone else who narrated from him

- The proper position in the tashahud is to keep your finger straight.
- This is how Imam Shafi taught you how to pray.
- Keep your finger straight throughout the whole tashahud.
- Don't pray like the saudi salafis. They are week in aqeeda and fiqh.

- When you are in rukoo, your fingers should spread over your knees.
- Your back should be flat like an iron board.
- When you get up from rukoo, your back should be straight.

Abi Qatadah reported that the Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "The worst thief is one who steals in his prayer." Then the companions asked, "How can someone steal from his prayer?" Prophet (SAW) answered, "He does not complete his Ruku and Sadjah with perfection." [Musnad Ahmad (5/310) No. 22695, Sunan Darimi (1/350) No. 1328, Sahih Ibn Khuzaymah (1/331) No. 663]

- When you go down in sajda, your fingers are not allowed to be spread out on the ground.
- Your fingers should be close together.

- Your elbow should not be touching your sides and your elbow should not be on the ground.
- You are resembling a dog if your elbow is on the ground.
- The Prophet forbade this.
- You are not allowed to resemble a dog when you are praying salah.

MERIT # 28: SALAH IS THE MEANS BY WHICH OUR NEEDS ARE FULFILLED (SALATUL HAAJAH)

- Salatul Haajah is when you need something so you pray 2 rakah and ask Allah for it.

Abullah ibn Abi Awfa (Allah be pleased with him) relates that the Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him and give him peace) said, “Whoever has a need with Allah, or with any human being, then let them perform ritual ablutions well and then pray two rakats. After that, let them praise Allah and send blessings on the Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace). After this, let them say,
There is no god but Allah the Gentle and Generous.
Glory be to Allah, Lord of the Tremendous Throne.
All praise is to Allah, Lord of the worlds.
I ask you (O Allah) everything that leads to your mercy, and your tremendous forgiveness, enrichment in all good, and freedom from all sin.
Do not leave a sin of mine (O Allah), except that you forgive it, nor any concern except that you create for it an opening, nor any need in which there is your good pleasure except that you fulfill it, O Most Merciful!” [Tirmidhi (479) and Ibn Majah (1384)] (daeef)

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

QUESTION 1: What if you move your finger up and down, how did the Prophet pray?

- You should keep your finger straight during the entire tashahud.
- This is how Imam Shafi told you to pray.
- The hadith of wagging the fingers is a weak hadith.
- Imam Nawawi said such a hadith is weird.
- When you are praying you are not supposed to move excessively.

- Wagging the finger is excessive movement.